



**Association of Bay Area Governments
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Metropolitan Transportation Commission**

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Joint Policy Committee / Regional Planning Program

Date: November 2, 2006

To: Joint Policy Committee

From: Regional Planning Program Director

Subject: Global Climate Change

This memo transmits a request from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) that the Joint Policy Committee (JPC) study the issue of climate change and recommend a set of appropriate actions for ABAG, BAAQMD, and MTC to take on the issue. The memo also provides some background on regional-agency policies relative to climate change and recommends some initial study parameters responding to the MTC request.

The MTC Request

At its meeting of September 27th, 2006, the Commission approved a positive referral from its Planning Committee of the following recommendation from MTC's Executive Director:

Staff recommends that MTC first deepen its understanding of the climate change issue before making any specific implementation commitments. Accordingly, we recommend that the committee endorse the following four next steps:

1. Acknowledging that global climate change is a pressing public policy challenge and that reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector will play a significant role in addressing the problem.
2. Co-sponsoring the climate protection conference on November 10, 2006 hosted by BAAQMD and contributing \$25,000 in MTC funds to help defray the cost of the event.
3. Referring the issue of climate change to the Joint Policy Committee (JPC) for further study and development of recommendations of appropriate actions that MTC, ABAG, and BAAQMD should take to incorporate climate protection in their agency plans and programs.
4. Requesting that the JPC deliver a report back to the boards of the three agencies on this referral within six months.

Other Recent Regional Policy Positions

On June 1, 2005, the Air District (BAAQMD) Board resolved:

[To establish] a Bay Area Climate Protection Program to address climate change and climate protection through District activities including outreach and education campaigns, data collection and analysis, technical assistance, hosting a regional conference on climate protection, and support and leadership for local efforts in the Bay Area to reduce emissions that contribute to climate change.

The full text of the BAAQMD resolution is attached to this memo.

In addition to integrating the issue of climate change into its core mandate, the Air District has also identified six climate change initiatives:

- a climate protection summit;
- a greenhouse gas technology RFP;
- a Bay Area greenhouse gas emission inventory;
- the promotion of energy efficiency;
- in-house greenhouse gas emission reductions; and
- green schools

On September 21st, 2006, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Executive Board resolved that:

ABAG supports the establishment of meaningful greenhouse gas reduction targets as a way to focus attention and measure progress. Such targets include State targets established by Governor Schwarzenegger's Executive Order S-3-05, as well as targets that a number of our members have established for their operations, communities, and subregions.

ABAG will continue to take steps to reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions by: purchasing hybrid vehicles, including biodiesel vehicles, for the agency fleet; reimbursing employees for transit expenses to promote transit use; and implementing energy conservation, renewable energy implementation, and solid waste reduction measures in its offices.

ABAG will continue to advance policies, programs and activities that can help local governments, as well as Bay Area residents and businesses achieve greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. Examples of highly relevant efforts include those devoted to the advancement of infill and compact, city-centered and/or transit-oriented development such as the Smart Growth Preamble and Policies and Focusing Our Vision; ABAG Energy Watch; the Bay Area Green Business Program; and the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities.

ABAG will work closely with BAAQMD, BCDC, MTC, regional agency partners, local government members and other stakeholders to consider how to maximize benefits from these and related efforts and programs to help ensure that the Bay Area as a region leads the way towards rapid and meaningful greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Next Steps

The MTC request presents the JPC with a critically important and highly challenging task. Global warming will change the world and the Bay Area as we know them, and many of those changes are inevitable and irreversible even if we are successful in reducing greenhouse gas emissions well below those existing today. We are starting late, and the best we can hope to do is reduce impact, not eliminate it. Our regional strategy will need to work both to help prevent more warming than that already occurring and to adapt to that change which we are now powerless to prevent.

As indicated in the BAAQMD and ABAG resolutions, there are already a number of local-government and regional efforts underway which directly or indirectly address climate-change issues. These are necessary but not sufficient. We need to, and can, do much more. The requested six-month study gives the JPC the opportunity to identify and evaluate new efforts as well as strengthen those which we are already pursuing.

At the November 17th JPC meeting, staff will kick off the JPC's consideration of climate change with a presentation which attempts to assess the Bay Area's relation to global warming in world, national and state context. Following that presentation, I will be requesting the Committee's consideration of these RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. THAT the JPC agree to MTC's request that the JPC study the issue of climate change and develop recommendations of appropriate actions that MTC, ABAG, and BAAQMD should take to incorporate climate protection in their agency plans and programs; and THAT the JPC deliver its report to the three agencies within six months.
- B. THAT to guide itself and staff in undertaking the study and in preparing recommendations, the JPC set out an initial set of study parameters as follows:
 1. In recognition of MTC's request that the study be completed within six months, in recognition of the JPC's bi-monthly meeting schedule, and in recognition of the urgency attached to this issue, the JPC set an objective of approving its final report at the JPC's May 18th, 2007 meeting, with an interim report presented at its meeting of March 16th, 2007;
 2. In recognition of the short time frame and in recognition that local governments are already developing individual climate-change strategies and undertaking climate-change actions with the assistance of ABAG, BAAQMD, ICCLEI and others, the JPC confine its consideration of strategy to those things which require or benefit from collective action from the entire Bay Area region and particularly from the regional agencies;

3. In recognition that some climate change impacts are now inevitable and irreversible and that the Bay Area's preventative actions will be overwhelmed if the rest of the nation and the world does not take up on the Bay Area's leadership, the regional climate change strategy include both preventative and adaptive strategies;
4. In recognition that California's targets for reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions are very aggressive, that swift and effective changes in policy and behavior will be needed to have a measurable impact on global trends and that unprecedented levels of innovation may be required, the JPC consideration of actions and interventions not be limited to areas in which the regional agencies currently have statutory power;
5. In recognition that one of the primary impacts of global warming will be sea-level rise and that this, along with increased storm frequency and severity, will have a profound effect on the San Francisco Bay and its shoreline; the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) be invited to send representatives to participate with the JPC in its consideration of this issue (Government Code Section 66536 precludes BCDC representatives joining the JPC as voting members, but they could participate in Committee discussion);
6. In recognition of the high and growing level of public interest in this issue and in recognition that public agencies and their staff do not have a monopoly on good ideas, the JPC sponsor a public and stakeholder workshop early in the new year to solicit and discuss suggestions for appropriate regional actions.

BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2005-05

A Resolution Establishing the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Climate Protection Program

WHEREAS, there is overwhelming scientific evidence that shows concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are increasing steadily, and that the Earth's surface and ocean temperatures are rising;

WHEREAS, most scientists agree that anthropogenic sources of greenhouse gases largely account for these increases and are causing the earth's climate to change and that conflicting views are more about the rate of change and the ultimate results, rather than questioning the underlying premise of human-caused changes to climate;

WHEREAS, these scientists represent respected agencies such as NASA, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the International Panel on Climate Change, and other eminent scientific bodies in North America, Europe and Asia;

WHEREAS, scientific analysis has shown that average global surface temperature increased more than 1° F over the past 100 years, with a 9° F average increase in the polar regions, and that 1990 – 2000 was the hottest decade of the 20th century, and 2001, 2002, and 2003 were the hottest years ever recorded;

WHEREAS, scientific analysis has also shown that concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere have been increasing and the current concentration is the highest level in the past 420,000 years, and the greatest CO₂ concentration increases have occurred since about 1750, which coincide with the beginning of human industrialization and widespread use of fossil fuels, and the rate of increase has also been on the rise in the last century;

WHEREAS, concentrations of other greenhouse gases, such as methane and nitrous oxides, have also been increasing, and these gases are also created by human activities;

WHEREAS, global climate change could have significant effects on local weather conditions such as increases in temperatures, the extension of warm weather seasons, changes in wind and precipitation patterns, increases in severity of storms, and changes in other weather variables that have important effects on our local air quality and public health and welfare;

WHEREAS, ground level ozone and other pollutants are formed due to the photochemical reactions between nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds in the presence of sunlight and heat, and as climate change causes temperatures to increase, the emissions of ozone precursors and photochemical reactions will also increase;

WHEREAS, the Bay Area is a non-attainment area for the national 8-hour ozone standard and the state 1-hour and 8-hour ozone standards, and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District has dedicated significant resources to reducing ground level ozone in the region in order to protect public health, and climate change will impact those efforts;

WHEREAS, the Bay Area is also a non-attainment area for state particulate matter standards and many sources, specifically fossil fuel combustion, that lead to greenhouse gas emissions also contribute significantly to the region's particulate matter burden;

WHEREAS, in addition to ozone precursors and particulate matter, fossil fuel combustion also causes emissions of toxic air pollutants and other criteria pollutants that the Bay Area Air Quality Management District regulates in order to protect public health;

WHEREAS, reducing dependence on fossil fuels has the co-beneficial effect of reducing criteria air pollutants, toxic air contaminants, and particulate matter and greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change from fossil fuel combustion as well as providing energy independence;

WHEREAS, AB 1493 (Pavley) directed ARB to set regulations that would achieve the maximum feasible and cost-effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles and ARB adopted a new emissions standard for light duty vehicles to go into effect in the 2009 model year;

WHEREAS, the transportation sector accounts for the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the region, and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is already promoting efforts to reduce emissions from mobile sources through lower-emission vehicle incentive programs, transportation control measures, and smart growth policies, and these efforts also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of fossil fuels;

WHEREAS, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District also regulates emissions from energy generation, refineries, and chemical plants in the region, which are also a significant sources of both criteria pollutants and greenhouse gases and the District is already promoting energy conservation and efficiency measures that have co-benefits for greenhouse emission reductions;

WHEREAS, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is charged with improving public health in the region with respect to air quality, and by taking a leadership role in addressing greenhouse gas emissions the District will assist the core goal of achieving health-based air quality standards as well as reduce the regional contribution to global climate change;

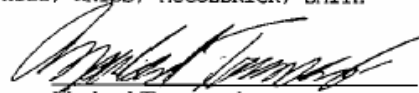
WHEREAS, there are already a number of municipal and community- based climate change programs already underway in the region such as efforts in Sonoma and Marin Counties, the Silicon Valley, and the City of Oakland to inventory emissions and set reduction targets, and continuing support of these efforts will provide additional opportunities to strengthen these programs, stimulate additional activities, and encourage further relationships between the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and its stakeholders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board of Directors establishes a Bay Area Climate Protection Program to address climate change and climate protection through District activities including outreach and education campaigns, data collection and analysis, technical assistance, hosting a regional conference on climate protection, and support and leadership for local efforts in the Bay Area to reduce emissions that contribute to climate change.

The foregoing resolution was duly and regularly introduced, passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District on the Motion of Director TOWNSEND, seconded by Director UULKEMA, on the 1st day of JUNE 2005 by the following vote of the Board:

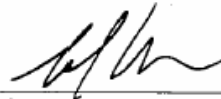
AYES: COOPER, DALY, DeSAULNIER, HAGGERTY, KWOK, MILEY, MILLER, ROSS, SHIMANSKY
SILVA, TORLIATT, UILKEMA, WAGENKNECHT, YOUNG, TOWNSEND
NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWN, DUNNIGAN, GARNER, HILL, KNISS, McGOLDRICK, SMITH



Marland Townsend
Chairperson of the Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Mark Ross
Secretary of the Board of Directors